

66. The method of claim 65, wherein said information management system comprises a storage system, said storage system including said I/O resources and having at least one storage device or at least one partitioned group of storage devices.

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67. The method of claim 66, wherein said information management system comprises a content delivery system coupled to a network; and wherein said information delivery environment comprises delivery of continuous media data across said network from said content delivery system to said plurality of viewers.

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68. The method of claim 67, wherein said content delivery system comprises an endpoint content delivery system coupled to said network at an endpoint of said network.

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69. The method of claim 66, wherein said storage system comprises at least two storage devices or two partitioned groups of storage devices; and wherein said at least one of said monitored system I/O performance characteristics comprise at least one of said system I/O performance characteristics at least partially reflective of workload distribution across said at least two storage devices or said at least two partitioned groups of storage devices.

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70. The method of claim 69, wherein said at least one of said monitored system I/O performance characteristics comprise at least one of maximal aggregate consumption rate for each of said at least two storage devices or partitioned groups of storage devices, maximal aggregate number of viewers for each of said at least two storage devices or partitioned groups of storage devices, or a combination thereof.

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71. The method of claim 70, wherein said method further comprises managing at least one of said I/O resources for delivery of said continuous media data to said plurality of viewers based at least in part on said modeled utilization.

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72. The method of claim 71, wherein an actual value of workload Skew for at least one of said storage devices or at least one of said partitioned groups of storage devices is greater than or equal to about 2.

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73. The method of claim 72, wherein said managing comprises balancing said I/O capacity with said buffer memory space to ensure uninterrupted delivery of said continuous media data to said plurality of viewers from said at least two storage devices or said at least two partitioned groups of storage devices.

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74. The method of claim 73, wherein said managing comprises setting a cycle time of said two or more storage devices or partitioned groups of storage devices to be greater than or equal to the maximal aggregate service time of said two or more storage devices or partitioned groups of storage devices.

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75. The method of claim 74, wherein said managing further comprises setting a cycle time of said two or more storage devices or partitioned groups of storage devices to maximize the number of simultaneous viewers of said continuous media data that is supported by said information management system.

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76. The method of claim 71, wherein said method further comprises allocating said I/O resources between background processing activities and delivery of said continuous media data.

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77. The method of claim 71, wherein said managing comprises at least one of performing I/O admission control, determining read-ahead size, or a combination thereof.

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78. The method of claim 77, wherein said managing comprises performing said I/O admission control by monitoring the number of existing viewers served from said at least one storage device or group of storage devices, and monitoring the data consumption rate of said existing viewers; balancing said I/O capacity with said buffer memory space based at least in part on said monitored number of existing viewers and said monitored data consumption rates of said existing viewers; and determining whether or not a capacity of said system is sufficient to support at least one additional viewer based at least in part on said balancing of said I/O capacity with said buffer memory space.

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79. The method of claim 77, wherein said managing comprises determining said read-ahead size by monitoring the number of existing viewers served from said at least one storage device or partitioned group of storage devices, and monitoring the data consumption rate of said existing viewers; balancing said I/O capacity with said buffer memory space based at least in part on said monitored number of existing viewers and said monitored data consumption rates of said existing viewers; setting a cycle time based at least in part on said balancing of said I/O capacity with said buffer memory space; and determining a number of read ahead data blocks based at least in part on said cycle time, said monitored data consumption rate, and a size of said data blocks.

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80. The method of claim 77, wherein said managing comprises performing said I/O admission control by monitoring the number of existing viewers served from said at least one storage device or group of storage devices, and monitoring the data consumption rate of said existing viewers; balancing said I/O capacity with said buffer memory space based at least in part on said monitored number of existing viewers and said monitored data consumption rates of

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